



February 19, 1998

BRISTOL BAY FISHERMEN

The Bristol Bay Driftnetters' Association, Inc. request for exemption from the survival craft requirements in Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 28.120 has been reviewed. After careful consideration and discussion with the Marine Safety Office in Anchorage, the request is approved subject to the conditions outlined below:

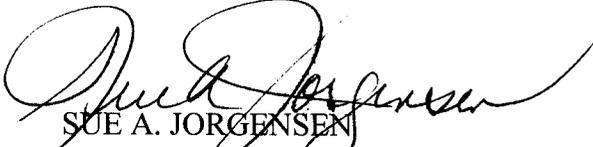
The authority for granting exemptions from the requirements of the commercial fishing vessel safety regulations (Title 46 CFR Part 28.60) allows exemptions when good cause exists, and the safety of the vessel and those on board will not be adversely affected. I find that in this case, both criteria are met and the exemption is granted with the following conditions:

- a. Operations are limited to those areas of Bristol Bay, Alaska, between the southern-most part of Ugashik Bay and the western-most part of Togiak Bay that are within 12 miles of the coastline.
- b. Operations are limited to times when weather conditions are favorable.
- c. Operable radio equipment, capable of communicating with other vessels and shore stations in the operating vicinity must be maintained on board each vessel, tested each morning prior to getting underway and monitored at all times.
- d. Each vessel must comply with all other requirements contained in Title 46 CFR Part 28. To ensure compliance, each vessel wanting to take advantage of this exemption, must complete a Coast Guard dockside examination and receive a Coast Guard Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination decal every two years.
- e. This exemption is valid for the period between June 1 and August 31 each year.
- f. This exemption only applies when there are 4 or fewer people on board.
- g. A copy of this exemption letter must be carried on board the vessel at all times and made available to Coast Guard boarding officers and dockside examiners.

This exemption will be evaluated annually to ensure there are no adverse effects on the safety of the fleet. I look forward to working closely with your organization with the common goal of ensuring the safety of the commercial fishing fleet.

If you feel the provisions are too restrictive you may appeal this decision. Your appeal should be forwarded to this office and will be forwarded to our headquarters office in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,


SUE A. JORGENSEN
Fishing Vessel Safety Specialist
U. S. Coast Guard
By direction of the Commander